

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03 STR-08

TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 DODE-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 L-03 H-03 SS-20 NSC-10 FEA-02 NEA-10

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6268

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 0288

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, US

SUBJECT: SOAMES DISCUSSES US/EC RELATIONS AT THE EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENT

REF: EC BRUSSELS 0274

1. SUMMARY. DURING THE JANUARY SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT  
IN STRASBOURG, EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES REPEATED HIS  
EARLIER JUDGMENT THAT US/EC RELATIONS ARE IMPROVING. HOWEVER,  
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HE ADDED A NOTE OF CAUTION TO EUROPEANS THAT THEY MUST OVERCOME

NARROW NATIONAL INTERESTS AND MUST BE AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTY FOR THE US IN TRYING TO DEAL WITH A STILL FRAGMENTED EC. END SUMMARY.

2. THE AGENDA FOR THE JANUARY SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT INCLUDED A DEBATE ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF US/EC RELATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN POSTPONED FROM EARLIER SESSIONS. THE DEBATE WAS BASED ON AN ORAL QUESTION FROM SEVERAL GERMAN MEMBERS TO THE COUNCIL AND TO THE COMMISSION ON WHAT MIGHT BE DONE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EC AND THE US. GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL, AS COUNCIL PRESIDENT, GAVE A SHORT REPLY, SAYING MAINLY THAT THE COMMUNITY HAD MET THE OBJECTIVE SET BY THE 1972 PARIS SUMMIT IN THIS AREA BY WORKING OUT THE TEXT OF A DECLARATION WHICH WILL BE SIGNED WHEN PRESIDENT NIXON VISITS EUROPE.

3. IN A LONGER AND MORE DRAMATIC REPLY, COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES AGAIN MADE MANY OF THE POINTS HE HAS PREVIOUSLY MADE ON THIS SUBJECT. HE UPDATED HIS VIEWS WITH REFERENCES TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE ENERGY CRISIS, SAYING THAT EARLY IN 1973 HE HAD FEARED A SPILLOVER FROM FINANCIAL AND MONETARY PROBLEMS INTO THE SECURITY AND POLITICAL AREAS BUT LATER LAST YEAR THERE WAS A DANGER OF THE INVERSE--THAT POLITICAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE US AND EUROPE MIGHT AFFECT ECONOMIC RELATIONS. SOAMES SAID THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE ENERGY CRISIS HAVE ACCELERATED THE NEED FOR A RE-DEFINITION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE EC; OUR MOST URGENT PREOCCUPATION IS THE WORLD SUPPLY OF ENERGY AND ITS PRICE, AND WE MUST TREAT THESE TOGETHER.

4. TOWARD THE END OF HIS REMARKS, SOAMES DEPARTED FROM HIS PREPARED TEXT AND MADE THE FOLLOWING RATHER IMPASSIONED COMMENTS TO THE PARLIAMENT: "IF IT IS TRUE THAT WE ARE SEEKING A NEW LEVEL OF PARTNERSHIP, WHICH INEVITABLY MUST BE TOTALLY DIFFERENT THAN THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE US AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT WE WILL NEED A HIGH LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING ON BOTH SIDES. THE US MUST SEE THAT EUROPE HAS A GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE TO WORLD AFFAIRS. EUROPE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT A DIALOGUE BETWEEN EQUAL PARTNERS MEANS WE MUST PUT OURSELVES IN THE POSITION OF BEING EQUAL.

5. "UNFORTUNATELY, WE ARE UNABLE TO SUPERIMPOSE ON OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS THE REALIZATION THAT IT IS IN ALL OUR INTERESTS TO HAVE

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EUROPEAN INTERESTS PARAMOUNT. THAT MEANS THAT SOMETIMES WHAT MIGHT APPEAR TO BE BAD FOR A SINGLE MEMBER STATE MAY BE THE BEST EUROPEAN POLICY. COMMISSION PROPOSALS, WHETHER GOOD OR BAD, ARE EUROPEAN PROPOSALS, BUT THEY ARE THROWN INTO A NATIONAL MEMBER STATE FRAMEWORK BY THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES AND THE COUNCIL.

6. "RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE EC COVER AN

ENORMOUS SPECITRUM, BUT PROBABLY EIGHTY PERCENT OF THAT SPECTRUM  
INVOLVES MATTERS ON WHICH THERE ARE NO COMMUNITY POSITIONS. HOW  
CAN THE US ADDRESS ITSELF IN THESE CASES? WE MUST MAKE PROGRESS  
IF WE WANT TO CLAIM TO BE EQUAL PARTNERS. IF RELATIONS WITH  
THE UNITED STATES WERE VITAL FOR US IN WAR AND DURING PEACETIME  
STRESS, THEY ARE NO LESS VITAL NOW."GREENWALD

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